

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 2, 2003
Human Resources Pinnacle Room
7575 E. Main Street

Present: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Vice-chair Leigh Hersey, Commissioners David Fortney, Bill Heckman, Nona Oliver, and Lynn Timmons Edwards

Absent and excused: Commissioner Stephen Owens

Staff Present: Debra Baird, Steve Lehmann, Gary Meyer, Doug Nesselroad, Doug Nohren, Judy Weiss, and Rose Williams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Anderson asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Heckman moved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 5, 2003 be approved as submitted. Vice-chair Hersey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. The 2002 National League Champion San Francisco Giants concluded spring training at the Stadium for the 2003 on March 26, 2003. Cactus League season in mid-February. The first game of the season was rained out but in the following 14 games the Giants recorded an attendance of over 144,000 fans. Scottsdale Stadium led the Cactus League in total attendance and average attendance per game for their 16-game home season. Field renovation for the stadium is part of the 2002 Bond that will begin in early May. The sod will be removed, the field will be peeled back, new irrigation will be added to improve coverage. Neighborhood Parks, as part of their FAMILY FIRST & CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS program, featured the 2nd "movie in the park" on Friday, March 28th, at Apache Park. The movie, "Willie Wonka & The Chocolate Factory" started at dark, and neighborhood parks staff members provided interactive activities that went along with the movie. Staff painted Important dates for the Commission are: next Commission meeting will be April 16, 2003 in the City Hall Kiva Forum; the Development Review Board is scheduled to review the plans for Chaparral Pool Remodeling on April 3rd at 1pm; on April 8th the Planning Commission will review the CAP Basin Park Municipal Use Master Site Plan at 5 pm; April 22nd the Planning Commission will review the Master Site Plan for DC Ranch Neighborhood Park at 5 pm; and on June 3rd the City Council is scheduled to award the construction contract for La Mirada Desert Park, phase II at 5 pm

MASTER PLAN FOR DC RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Gary Meyer, Parks/Trails Planning Manager presented a conceptual Master Plan for DC Ranch Neighborhood Park. The park site is located south of Union Hills Drive, east of Pima Road. Mr. Meyer introduced Charlie Freericks, Vice President of DMB, and Mark Jones, Project Manager of DC Ranch, and Shelley McTee, attorney for the developer. Ms. McTee provided some background on the site. Mr. Meyer noted when funding is available for the park, an architect will be hired, neighborhood meetings will be held and a more detailed Municipal Use Master Site Plan will be brought forward to the Commission. Approval of a conceptual Master Plan at this time will allow the property to be dedicated to the City. The Master Site Plan will proceed to the Planning Commission on April 22nd and then to the City Council hopefully in May. At that point the developer can then dedicate the site and the city can accept it. Upon acceptance the city is required to go through the master use site plan process. Mr. Meyer displayed some maps depicting the site.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if there was any residential development planned on the southwest side of the site. Mr. Meyer said no, on the west is industrially zoned land and some industrial south and southeast of

the site. Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked what the distance was from the site to the closest residential area. Mr. Meyer said it was about 350 feet.

Vice-chair Hersey asked how large is the park site. Mr. Meyer said it was about 12.8 acres net useable with a gross area of about 15.5 acres

Commissioner Heckman asked if this was the site otherwise known as site "L" in previous presentations regarding the aquatic center. Mr. Meyer said it was. Commissioner Heckman asked about the state land to the east and what is the status of all that area. Mr. Meyer said it was sold to Toll Brothers by the State Land Department and zoned for residential. Commissioner Heckman asked what the plan was for Pima Road. Mr. Meyer said there is a new alignment for Pima Road. There will be a gentler more sweeping curve. There is concern from the neighborhood so Transportation is looking at moving it 60 feet to the west. Commissioner Heckman asked if we are likely to have both a trail and pathway. Mr. Meyer said yes. Commissioner Heckman asked if the funding for this park is being delayed due to the budget issues and is there a target date. Mr. Meyer said this is a bond-funded project but due to operating costs it has been delayed. In the current process it is slated for 2007. The DC Ranch Community Park is scheduled for 2006. Commissioner Heckman asked what stage of development is the community park in. Mr. Meyer said the conceptual plan shows the western portion including an equestrian trailhead along with neighborhood park amenities. The eastern portion is the tennis complex. Commissioner Heckman asked if there was funding and a plan for community park section. Mr. Meyer said it is on table but has been moved back to July 2006. Commissioner Heckman asked if there is any time restriction on the development of the park site. Mr. Meyer said approval tonight will be the first step in allowing the dedication to the City. The City will then own it and there are no time restraints on development. Commissioner Heckman asked if there are any provisions for playing fields in the neighborhood park. Mr. Meyer said this site is not being looked at for ballfields because it is a neighborhood park site with limited size.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if there is any resolution from the current residents regarding the park. Mr. Meyer said we do not have any input from the community. This area is not developed yet. A sign can be put up to identify the site and what will be happening there. Commissioner Timmons Edwards said people will still say they don't know about it. Are there any actions that the sales people can take to ensure people will know. Ms. McTee said the developer has added measures to ensure that the public will know. A description will be in the public reports and in the CC&R's. This has been on the overall plan since 1995 and it has shown a public park. Mr. Jones said all the graphics from day one show this park and the other park, including the school and lights. The developer has its own resale team that tends to dominate the resale in DC Ranch. Commissioner Heckman noted that one part of any disclosure should include a provision for the lights for such areas as the basketball courts. He commends the plan and the preplanning using washes with trails is great. Commissioner Oliver asked if it can be posted on the land what is to be there. Mr. Meyer said the City will install signs once they own the property.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the current alignment of Pima Road will remain. Mr. Meyer said the existing Pima Road will be replaced by a new alignment further east, as shown on the map.

Chairperson Anderson asked if a skatepark was planned for the site. Mr. Meyer said it was not planned for this site. Chairperson Anderson noted it would be good to mention the potential amenities on any sign. She noted that this is a not a horse community and there is an assumption there won't be horses around. Any signage should include that information. Mr. Meyer noted there are several city parks that have trailheads where the communities are not necessarily equestrian communities. Chairperson Anderson said this is a good site with a nice dedication and will be quite an asset.

Commission Timmons Edwards moved to approve the Master Site Plan for a future public park at DC Ranch on a 15.5 acre parcel located near the southeast corner of Pima Road and Union Hills Road with Open Space (O-S) and Planned Community District (PCD) District zoning as submitted. Commissioner Heckman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE FROM CHAPARRAL PARK/ADULT SPORTS

Doug Nohren, Recreation Coordinator, will provide the Commission with an overview highlighting programs and events at Chaparral Park and of the Adult Sports Program. Chaparral is a 100 acre park site with playgrounds, ballfields, basketball, picnic areas, ramadas, soccer fields, volleyball courts, pool, urban lake, multi-use path with exercise stations, and a off leash activity area. The park draws over 500,000 visitors annually. Little leagues, youth and adult soccer, baseball, adult softball, adult flag football, Pop Warner football, and lacrosse and rugby groups use fields continually. Chaparral Park is the center for the City's Adult Sports program that includes football, softball, and basketball, all for adults. The program has over 14,000 participants; over 300,000 citizen contacts, and generates over \$300,000 in revenue. The off leash area is one of the City's most popular amenities which increased the park attendance by about 100,000 annually. It is not uncommon to have as many as 300 people and dogs using the site at one time. Arizona Game and Fish stocks the lake bi-weekly and conducts periodic fishing clinics at the park. Jona Davis, Senior Recreation Coordinator in Aquatics manages the pool. They host lap swims, lessons, and open swim times. They are currently handling the Eldorado Pool schedule when that site is under construction. Leisure Education classes are held in the recreation center. The center is also home to the Adapted Recreation after-school program. Many special events are held at the park including Health Adventures in the Park, Wet N Wild Water Day, and Mighty Mud Mania.

Commissioner Oliver stated she feels the parking lot needs to be opened up. It is currently not friendly for handicapped users. The handicapped parking needs to be by the ramp to the swimming pool. The handicapped parking is next to the drain on the west side. Handicapped people cannot use the sidewalk because of the barricade. The chain link fence is also an inconvenience. Will these issues be addressed when the park is upgraded. Mr. Nohren said that staff can look into some of these issues. There are many complaints about those speeding through the neighborhood so the chain is kept up. People even drive over the ramp that is reason for the barricades. Ms. Baird noted that she has requested the ADA Committee to look into adding additional spaces on the east side. The barricade has to be there because we don't want vehicles going through the park. Ms. Baird will ask the committee to report their findings to the Commission. Commissioner Oliver said the area needs curb cuts. Ms. Baird said she would have Tom Beat, Special Projects Manager, meet Commissioner Oliver at Chaparral to discuss these issues.

Commissioner Heckman noted there are hardly ever any food concessions. Could this be an offset for some of the revenue shortfalls. Mr. Nohren said that selling concessions at the Adult Sports games has been tried and not proven to be profitable. There are few spectators. Concessions during Little League game are profitable as there are many spectators watching the children play. There are so many fast foods close by. Ms. Baird noted that we do have a concessionaire at the pool. The complaint is they don't make enough money. The philosophy of the council and commission is we don't want roving concessionaires in the park. It works at McCormick because of the environment. Little Leagues tend to bring their own refreshments. Commissioner Fortney noted a few of the Little Leagues tried it and they made about \$50-\$75 per night.

Vice-Chair Hersey asked, with the fields in high use, how can staff keep them maintained. Mr. Nohren said it is a challenge. All Scottsdale's fields are used so highly used. During winter the grass is dormant. During the winter SRP does canal dry ups so the water is not plentiful. Staff has done a good job with irrigation maintenance. Just finding a time frame to water is a challenge.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards wanted to compliment staff and feels it is a wonderful compatibility of uses. Has staff ever tried fishing outings in conjunction with the senior center seniors. Ms. Baird said she would share that information with leisure education and senior centers.

Commissioner Oliver asked if carp was ever used in the lake to keep it clean. Mr. Nohren said there is a fish that is used for this. The problem is when the wash runs the bars of the grates are wide enough that it would take the fish out of the lake.

Chairperson Anderson noted it is a very nice park and has been improved nicely.

CITYWIDE SPORTS LIGHTING STATUS

Steve Lehmann, Senior Recreation Coordinator gave the Commission an update on the status of current and future sports lighting projects throughout the City. Mr. Lehmann displayed the national per capita standards and the City of Scottsdale has a deficit of 14 baseball fields, 13 softball fields, and 21 soccer fields in relation to its population. Mr. Lehmann outlined to future identified projects for sports fields, the existing and some potential sites.

Commissioner Fortney asked if the money is in the budget for these projects. Mr. Lehmann said they are budgeted. Supai is planned to be in the budget for future projects. It must go through the process. There are projects that are not on the current 5-year plan.

Vice-Chair Hersey asked, with the addition of new fields, where would this put us with relation to our inventory. Mr. Lehmann said it will help but the population will continue to go up offsetting the gains in fields to a degree. Ms. Baird said it will help but with our deficiencies not a lot. There are some other areas being considered but there are no funds for those sites. Staff is making the City Council aware of this and is working hard to educate everyone. The Youth Task Force Committee has helped in the awareness of the issues. Mr. Lehmann said staff is putting together a comprehensive report on lighting issues.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the height of the poles can be kept at a certain level. Mr. Lehmann noted the higher the pole the more the light can be aimed down therefore minimizing the spillage. Most poles are 60 to 80 feet high on ballfields. Commissioner Oliver said the height was one of the things that seems to upset everyone. Ms. Baird said that 80-feet is the standard. Mr. Lehmann said there are colored poles in some areas that serve to minimize the impact.

Judy Weiss, Manager, noted that the CAP Basin project is scheduled for presentation to the Planning Commission on April 8, 2003. This would be a chance for advocacy. Chairperson Anderson noted that only 4 fields are lighted on the CAP plan. As the City grows would it be possible to light more of those fields. Ms. Baird said it is possible but it would be at a greater cost as the infrastructure would not be in place.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Davida Schiffman-Smith, no address listed, asked if it would be possible to pursue an IGA with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community for shared court space for basketball, aquatics, skateboards and ballfields.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-chair Hersey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.



Debra Baird, Director
Parks, Recreation & Facilities